



**NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA
MARINE
ASSOCIATION**

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20 September 1999

Rick Breitenbach
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on CALFED's Revised Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact
Report/Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR)

Dear Mr. Breitenbach:

I am writing on behalf of the Northern California Marine Association (NCMA), a non-profit trade association representing approximately 300 member companies involved in the recreational marine industry in Northern California. According in an economic impact study conducted for the Department of Boating and Waterways in 1997, recreational boating contributed \$11 billion in gross state product in 1995. Of that amount, \$6.8 billion was attributable to direct spending. The industry provides 183,000 jobs to the state's work force and generates \$569 million in state and local tax revenues.

The Bay-Delta region is a unique recreational boating resource because of its 1000 miles of waterways and over 12,000 berths. Of the approximately 200,000 boaters who are attracted to the Delta each year, many come from surrounding counties—there are over 250,000 registered boats in the Delta counties—however, the region attracts boaters from throughout the state and the nation. Recreational survey reports indicate that boating participation accounts for over 35.2 million activity days per year in the area. While cruising is the most popular boating activity that occurs in the Delta, other activities include fishing from a boat, water skiing, and swimming from a boat.

Recreation, along with agriculture and wildlife habitat, constitutes one of the three existing land uses in the Delta. As such, it should not be dismissed as a minor stakeholder in CALFED's planning process. The NCMA urges that CALFED develop a recreation master plan for the Delta that can be used to evaluate potential impacts of other CALFED projects and to enhance recreation in the Delta.

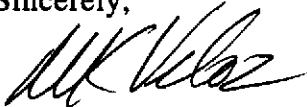
The NCMA has been and will continue to be an active member of the Delta Ad Hoc Recreation Committee. The NCMA supports the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee, which have been forwarded to you under separate cover. The NCMA concurs that implementation of a recreation master plan should be overseen by a Delta Recreation Oversight Committee made up of Delta recreation stakeholders.

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The Northern California Marine Association appreciates the importance of the CALFED process and supports the concept of working together to devise reasonable solutions. However, such considerations must include the recreational community, it too is a key stake holder in the Delta.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M'K Veloz', written in a cursive style.

(Ms) M'K Veloz
Administrative Director